

## **Technology Advisory Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**July 10, 2008**

The Technology Advisory Committee met on July 10, 2008 in City Hall Council Chambers.

#### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m.

#### **II. Roll Call**

☒ Chris Price – Chair

☐ Mark Farr

☒ Oakel Hardy

☒ Mike Jamerson

☒ Mark McHolland

☒ Georgia Miller

☐ Steve Baker

☐ Jim Hartsook

#### **Invited Guests:**

John Conley and Tony Walton, Smithville Digital; Caleb Tennis, Data Cave; Jeff Jordan, AT&T

#### **Other Attendees:**

Stan Gamso, Counsel

#### **III. Open Issues**

##### **a) Smithville Update**

John Conley presented the monthly check from Smithville. He advised that they are working with Cummins to provide data services as part of Cummins' flood recovery efforts at their local facilities.

John also reported that the Columbus conduit system was not compromised as a result of the local flooding in June, and they suffered no damage to their fiber optics cable or supporting electronic equipment.

Smithville is presently working with Columbus Regional Hospital and now has a service agreement with them.

John reported that the fiber hut at the corner of Central Avenue and 7<sup>th</sup> Street had water in the building, but the water level was below the lowest equipment on their

installation racks thus no equipment or service was compromised.

b) Fiber Extension to City Utilities

The only responder to the RFP was Smithville Digital. Brent submitted his analysis of the response and forwarded same to the full Committee electronically.

Counsel reported that since Smithville was the only responder, he had spoken to Oakel and he had instructed John Conley of Smithville to provide us with an addendum to the existing contract. That was provided and disseminated to the Committee. Counsel advised that the addendum had not been reviewed by the City Attorney, but he would see to it that a review was accomplished and presented to the Board of Works (BOW).

Concluding review of Brent's analysis, Georgia moved for recommendation to the BOW that Smithville be accepted as the provider of fiber services to City Utilities. Mark McHolland seconded the motion, and following a call for questions and further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mike Jamerson moved to present the Addendum to the Smithville contract to the BOW with a recommendation to enter into same. Mark McHolland seconded the motion. Following a call for questions and further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

c) Governance (CITE) Update

The Chairman reported that there was no activity on this issue to report from last month.

d) Update to Counsel on 5/20/08

Chris reported that he presented the TAC's work to date to City Counsel on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The presentation was well received. He will make a similar presentation to the Economic Development Board in September.

Oakel reported that he had attended the May meeting and complimented Chris on his presentation. He also remarked that the presentation was well received.

e) Recommended Conduit Routes

A subcommittee of the TAC met with Smithville to discuss recommended conduit routes. The chairman had emailed a copy of prospective routes and pros and cons of same to Committee members prior to the meeting.

The chairman presented the findings and recommendations to the Committee.

The consensus of the subcommittee was that the goal should be to encourage the City to spend money wisely by installing conduit in underserved areas.

When the City and the TAC first considered installation of conduit, the City was advised that the estimated cost per mile was \$100,000.00. In discussions with Smithville and the subcommittee, Smithville agreed that it would pay a revenue lease fee to the City for any customer who contracts with Smithville and is within one quarter of a mile of the present conduit system as represented by the gray areas on the various maps presented to the Committee.

Also regarding fees, Smithville agreed to pay a fee to the City for any client it connects separately if the client is not located near an existing City conduit. The fee would be based on the proportion of linear mileage of the City conduit system over which the client's data travels. For example, say Smithville installs a conduit and fiber system specifically for a client outside the existing City-owned conduit. If the Smithville-installed mileage were two miles and the client's data traveled along the one mile of the Smithville-installed fiber and along one mile of the City conduit system, then the proportional fee would be one-half.

There were nine options presented by the subcommittee:

1. 17<sup>th</sup> Street and Hawcreek Ave to 12<sup>th</sup> Street and McClure
2. Arnold Street and Kelly Street to Middle Road to Central Ave
3. 5<sup>th</sup> and Brown to 8<sup>th</sup> Street to Indianapolis Road.
4. 5<sup>th</sup> and Brown to Lindsay Street to Washington Street to 25<sup>th</sup> Street to Central Ave.
5. 5<sup>th</sup> Street & Brown Street to Lindsay Street to Washington Street to 27<sup>th</sup> Street to Maple Street to 27<sup>th</sup> Street to Central Ave.
6. Columbus Utility Expansion
7. Arnold Street to Marr Road to Taylor Road
8. 10<sup>th</sup> Street & McClure to Taylor Road to Central Ave.
9. Central Avenue & Middle Road to 25<sup>th</sup> Street and Taylor Road.

The Committee discussed at length the various options presented. With respect to each option the comments were:

Option 1: The City has approximately 11,000 feet of conduit remaining from prior jobs that could be used to close this loop.

Option 2: This option is considered to be a very tough boring problem because there are a lot of residences along the route and it is generally not considered to be a very feasible bore.

Option 3: Option 3 essentially would serve only one customer; thus this could be a lower cost installation. Smithville can deal with that directly.

Options 4 & 5: Numbers four and five are related and the comments are as follows: Number 4 closes the western loop and has redundancy to the downtown section

of the conduit system. Number 5 is similar to 4 and is a slightly easier bore than 25<sup>th</sup> Street. It was also concluded that between these two options, the benefit would be closing the loop being the primary consideration thereby offering additional redundancy.

Option 6: This is an expansion that the City could leverage with the forced sewer construction project. Oakel had suggested looking into the possibility of obtaining some state or federal grant money to meet this need. He committed to looking into that possibility.

Option 7: Number 7 is an alternate to Option 2. There could be some cost savings with this construction and crossing U.S. 31 could be avoided.

Option 8: This option closes the northern loop but does, however, cross U.S. 31. A benefit of this option is that installation of the conduit would parallel the existing Smithville high FW loop.

Option 9: Finally, Option 9 closes the northern and eastern loop of the city but does cross U.S. 31.

Concluding lengthy discussion the members the Committee reaffirmed its goal to serve underserved areas. The decision was to recommend was as follows:

<u>Option</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	Open an RFP
2.	Open an RFP for this option as an alternate to Option 7
3.	Defer to Smithville
4.	Open an RFP as an alternate to #5
5.	Open an RFP as an alternate to #4
6.	Oakel will explore grant opportunities with ARA
7.	Open an RFP as an alternate to #2
8.	No Action
9.	Open an RFP but Committee member did not see this as viable option, however an RFP was suggested
10.	Undocumented – Data Cave – because of their new presence in the community it was thought we should move forward with an RFP while at the same time exploring possible state grant monies.

Caleb Tennis of the Data Cave announced that they would be opening a data center at Marr and Gladstone and had made application for and received a State matching grant for up to \$50,000.00. Oakel suggested that the subcommittee could work with Caleb and Economic Development to assist the Data Cave in its quest to obtain additional funding to construct a building estimated by Caleb to cost approximately \$300,000.00.

Mike Jamerson moved and Mark McHolland seconded a motion directing Brent Engle to prepare RFP's consistent with the recommendations above to expand the conduit expansion. After further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

#### IV. Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting

Upon review of the May minutes, Georgia moved to approve, and Mark seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

#### V. New Business

##### a) InfoComm Contract Transition

InfoComm has a contract with the TAC for the development of wireless services. It was previously determined that wireless is not an option at this time. Therefore the Chairman directed Brent to submit a new contract for consideration and the funding allocated for the wireless contract would be used to support the new contract. A copy of Brent's proposed contract was submitted for consideration. Following discussion, Mike Jamerson moved and Mark McHolland seconded a motion to recommend to BOW the acceptance of InfoComm's new contract subject to the City attorney's review. The motion passed unanimously.

##### b) Counsel Fees Review

Counsel submitted an invoice for May and June. Concluding a review of the claims, Oakel was instructed to pay counsel's invoices.

##### c) Any Other Business

Oakel gave a brief update on the budget. He wanted the Committee to know that the 2009 budget was due to be presented to the City on August 6 & 7<sup>th</sup>. He reported that the TAC had \$650,250.00 available. He suggested that the wireless project anticipated some \$150,000.00 and \$25,000.00 in annual maintenance fees and that same should be rolled into the conduit extension projects bringing the conduit extension projects to \$525,000.00.

There was also discussion about budgeting for an IT executive for the CITE program. The salary was estimated to be \$65,000.00. A discussion followed regarding the cost of benefits and other additional charges necessary for inclusion in the budget.

Oakel committed to revising the budget and will email copies to all the Committee members for further review.

#### VI. Call for Public Comments

There no comments.

#### VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the chairman at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley A. Gamso, Counsel